



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MRAI&E)

SUBJECT: New Reporting and Querying Requirements for the National Practitioner
Data Bank (NPDB)

Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6025.15 "Implementation of Department of Defense Participation in the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) (Enclosure A) has been revised and reissued effective October 12, 2000. I especially call your attention to Section 4.2 concerning information about paid malpractice suits being reported to the NPDB. The 180-day period to determine quality of care and to overcome the presumption that the payment has been made on behalf of the provider(s) involved is critical. Because these standard of care determinations are essential, every effort must be made to provide adequate clinical and administrative resources to review these cases to prevent the required reporting of cases where, in fact, it is determined that the standard of care was indeed met, but that the determination exceeded the 180 day period.

As stated in Section 4.5.5, I am now directing the Military Departments to begin submitting reports to the NPDB pertaining to adverse privileging actions on all privileged healthcare providers, not just physicians or dentists. This requirement will promote consistency and ensure accountability for all privileged healthcare providers.

Finally, as stated in policy memorandum dated October 4, 1996, (Enclosure B), the moratorium on querying the NPDB for practitioners other than physicians and dentists was extended for fiscal years 1997 through 2000. This extension has now lapsed and will not be renewed. As of December 31, 1999, practitioners other than physicians and dentists comprise 10 percent (22,746) of all reports in the NPDB. Dentists comprised 14.3% (32,586) and physicians comprised 75.7% (172,209) of all reports. Moreover, practitioners other than physicians and dentists comprise 13.4% (19,520) of all practitioners with at least one report in the NPDB, while dentists comprise 14.7% (21,336), and physicians comprise the remaining 71.9% (104,678). Enclosure C provides a detailed breakout of this information. Henceforth, all licensed practitioners will require a query of the NPDB when applying for initial clinical privileges or when renewing existing privileges. The next revision of Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 6025.13 "Clinical Quality Management Program (CQMP) in the Military Health Services System (MHSS), July 20, 1995, will reflect this change.

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